

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03400 291820Z
ACTION EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W
-----291939Z 058471 /41

P R 291701Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USIA WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 1148

UNCLAS LISBON 3400

USIA FOR IEU/MCLAUGHLIN
SECSTATE FOR EUR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, US, PO
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. SOARES VISIT TO U.S.:

(A) WEEKLY CENTRIST NEWSPAPER "TEMPO" DATED APRIL 28
PUBLISHED POSITIVE ANALYSIS OF SOARES VISIT. CORRESPONDENT
JAO G. BASTOS WROTE: "...IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT THE MARIO
SOARES VISIT TO THE U.S. WAS A PERSONAL TRIUMPH. HE WAS
FAVORABLY RECEIVED EVERYWHERE AND HE CAUSED THE BEST
POSSIBLE IMPRESSION...ALL SOURCES SAY THAT HIS MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER WAS EXTREMELY FRIENDLY...HIS
GREATEST SUCCESS IN NEW YORK WAS THE LUNCHEON GIVEN FOR
HIM BY THE AMERICAN-PORTUGUESE SOCIETY (WHERE SOARES
PRODUCED) AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION. WE BELIEVE THAT
THIS CONTRIBUTION TOWARD ENDING AN ATMOSPHERE OF SEMI-
HOSTILITY WHICH PREVAILED IN CERTAIN QUARTERS SINCE
THE EXCESSES AND OUTRAGES OF THE VASCO GONCALVES AND
OTELO EAR..."

(B) JOSE RICARDO, WHO COVERED SOARES U.S. VISIT,
WROTE IN APRIL 29 PRO-GOP "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" THAT
PORTUGAL MAY HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE IN COORDINATING WESTERN
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PAGE 02 LISBON 03400 291820Z

COUNTRIES' POLICIES IN AFRICA WITH THE U.S.: "IN
MAINTAINING AN CAREFUL POLICY OF NOT ANTAGONIZING ANY
SIDE IN AFRICA, EVEN OF GIVING DEFINITE AID, THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO HAVE WANTED TO GIVE PORTUGAL
A PRIVILIGED ROLE IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTRIES
IN THE 'FRONT LINE' IN WHICH MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA FIT...
THE DESIRE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO 'COORDINATE'

POINTS OF VIEW WITH PORTUGAL REGARDING PROBLEMS SUCH AS THOSE OF AFRICA, THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE, HUMAN RIGHTS, EURO-COMMUNISM COULD GIVE THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT VERY USEFUL POLICY INSTRUMENTS IF MANEUVERED WITH TACT. THE DIVIDENDS OF THE VISIT BY MARIO SOARES AND MEDEIROS FERREIRA TO WASHINGTON, BEYOND THOSE IN THE FINANCIAL AREA, COULD AMOUNT TO A STRENGTHENING OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IN WHICH PORTUGAL ACTS AS A PRIVILIGED INTERLOCUTOR."

2. NATO: LEFTIST WEEKLY "O JORNAL" OF APRIL 22 CARRIED UNSIGNED COMMENTARY UNDER HEADLINE, "MILITARY COMMANDERS SAY: NATO IS EXPENSIVE BUT WORTH IT." LEAD WAS: "HIGH PORTUGUESE MILITARY COMMANDERS CONSIDER PORTUGAL'S POSITION WITHIN NATO ADVANTAGEOUS, DESPITE OUR COUNTRY BEING THE FOURTH LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THAT ORGANIZATION AFTER WEST GERMANY, THE U.S. AND GREAT BRITAIN, PAYING MORE THAN STRATEGICALLY VITAL COUNTRIES SUCH AS TURKEY." CITING MILITARY SOURCES, ARTICLE SAID "THE PRICE PORTUGAL PAYS IS WORTH IT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COST OF RESTRUCTURING THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES, CURRENTLY IN PROCESS, AND THE FURNISHING OF MATERIAL AND TRAINING" BY OTHER COUNTRIES. ARTICLE CONTINUED: "TO EVALUATE THE IMPORTANCE GIVEN PORTUGAL'S PRESENCE IN NATO..., THE PARTICIPATION OF PRESIDENT RAMALHO EANES IN THE LONDON CONFERENCE IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN THAT IT ASSURES A CONTINUITY IN TIES AT A LEVEL HIGHER THAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL..."

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PAGE 03 LISBON 03400 291820Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2784887
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION
TAGS: SOPN, US, PO, (SOARES, MARIO)
To: USIA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/69ddcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009